

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraphs [0007] and [0008] with the following amended paragraphs:

[0007] Some embodiments of the present invention provide methods of controlling proppant flowback from a fracture in a subterranean zone comprising the steps of providing resin coated proppant; providing tackifying composition; coating the tackifying composition onto at least a portion of the resin coated proppant to create ~~tackyfied-tackified~~ resin coated proppant; introducing the ~~tackyfied-tackified~~ resin coated proppant into a subterranean fracture; and, allowing the ~~tackyfied-tackified~~ resin coated proppant to substantially cure.

[0008] Other embodiments of the present invention provide methods of fracturing a subterranean formation comprising the steps of providing a fracturing fluid; placing the fracturing fluid into a subterranean formation at a pressure sufficient to create or extend at least one fracture therein; providing ~~tackyfied-tackified~~ resin coated proppant; placing the ~~tackyfied-tackified~~ resin coated proppant into the subterranean fracture; and, allowing the ~~tackyfied-tackified~~ resin coated proppant to substantially cure.

Please replace paragraph [0011] with the following amended paragraph:

[0011] The methods of the present invention act, *inter alia*, to enhance the consolidation strength of resin coated proppant (hereinafter “RCP”). RCP is a proppant material that is coated with resin and allowed to partially cure so that it can be, *e.g.*, conveniently stored and transported. Some embodiments of the methods of the present invention comprise coating a tackifying material onto RCP and then using that ~~tackyfied-tackified~~ RCP in a subterranean application such as hydraulic fracturing, frac-packing or vent-screen gravel packing.

Please replace paragraphs [0015], [0016], and [0017] with the following amended paragraphs:

[0015] Figure 1 illustrates one embodiment of an on-the-fly mixing method of the present invention. Container 10 holds particulate matter such as RCP. Conveyance means 11 can be any means known in the art for conveying particulate material, in one embodiment of the present invention, conveyance means 11 comprises a conveyor belt or a sand screw. Conveyance means 11 transports proppant to container 30. Container 20 holds tackifying compound and line 21

transports the tackifying compound to container 30. Control of the total and relative amounts of tackifying compound is achieved through the use of valve 22 on line 21 and of RCP through the control of conveyance means 11. Inside container 30, the particles from container 10 are coated with tackifying agent from container 20 to form ~~tackyfied-tackified~~ RCP. The coated particles exit container 30 via conveyance means 31. Where conveyance means 31 is a sand screw, the RCP may be coated with the tackifying agent by the auger action of the sand screw itself.

[0016] Where it is desirable to immediately use the ~~tackyfied-tackified~~ RCP in a subterranean treatment, it may be transported by conveyance means 31 directly from container 30 to blender tub 40. In one embodiment, the transport of ~~tackyfied-tackified~~ RCP from container 30 to blender tub 40 is computer-controlled to ensure accurate metering and to allow for a rapid shutdown of on-the-fly mixing when necessary. Also transported to blender tub 40 is a servicing fluid, such as a fracturing fluid or gravel packing fluid, from container 50 through transport line 51. The servicing fluid from container 50 may be transported to blender tub 40 by any means known in the art. In one embodiment, the transport of servicing fluid from container 50 to blender tub 40 is computer-controlled to ensure accurate metering and to allow for a rapid shutdown of on-the-fly mixing when necessary. Such computer control may be achieved, in part, by making valve 52 a computer-controlled valve. Inside blender tub 40, the servicing fluid is substantially mixed with ~~tackyfied-tackified~~ RCP to form a blended composition suitable for use in subterranean fractures.

[0017] When the ~~tackyfied-tackified~~ RCP of the present invention is used in a subterranean fracturing operation, any fracturing fluid known in the art may be used, including viscosified treatment fluids, aqueous gels, emulsions, and other suitable fracturing fluids. Where used, the aqueous gels are generally comprised of water and one or more gelling agents. Also, where used, the emulsions may be comprised of two or more immiscible liquids such as an aqueous gelled liquid and a liquefied, normally gaseous fluid, such as nitrogen. The preferred fracturing fluids for use in accordance with this invention are aqueous gels comprised of water, a gelling agent for gelling the water and increasing its viscosity, and optionally, a cross-linking agent for cross-linking the gel and further increasing the viscosity of the fluid. The increased viscosity of the gelled or gelled and cross-linked fracturing fluid, *inter alia*, reduces fluid loss and allows the fracturing fluid to transport significant quantities of suspended proppant particles.

The fracturing fluids may also include one or more of a variety of well-known additives such as breakers, stabilizers, fluid loss control additives, clay stabilizers, bactericides, and the like.

Please replace paragraphs [0019] and [0020] with the following amended paragraphs:

[0019] The tackifying composition may act, *inter alia*, to enhance the grain-to-grain contacts between individual RCP particles. Moreover, the tackifying composition is believed to soften the partially cured resin on the RCP. This dual action of the tackifying composition may improve the final consolidation strength of a proppant pack made using the ~~tackyfied-tackified~~ RCP of the present invention.

[0020] In one embodiment of the methods of the present invention, RCP is substantially coated with a tackifying composition to form ~~tackyfied-tackified~~ RCP. The ~~tackyfied-tackified~~ RCP is then placed in a subterranean zone having one or more fractures therein and allowed to cure and consolidate into one or more high-strength permeable packs.

Please replace the Abstract of the Disclosure with the following amended paragraph:

[0025] The present invention involves enhancing the conductivity of subterranean propped fractures penetrating formations while controlling proppant flowback. More particularly, the present invention relates to improved consolidation performance of resin-coated proppants and their use in controlling proppant flowback. Some embodiments of the present invention provide methods of controlling proppant flowback from a fracture in a subterranean zone comprising the steps of providing resin coated proppant; providing tackifying composition; coating the tackifying composition onto at least a portion of the resin coated proppant to create ~~tackyfied-tackified~~ resin coated proppant; introducing the ~~tackyfied-tackified~~ resin coated proppant into a subterranean fracture; and, allowing the ~~tackyfied-tackified~~ resin coated proppant to substantially cure.